

# Desert Pause 2006



July 12, 2006

Dear Friends,

Your support has made possible a life-giving annual event for men and women in Idaho who live with HIV+/AIDS. September 15-18, we'll celebrate the 13<sup>th</sup> "Desert Pause" gathering here at the Monastery of the Ascension near Jerome.

*"This retreat gave me the strength to share my HIV+ condition with my children and family – a huge relief!"* said a young mother of three at our retreat last year. Another woman was inspired to organize a women's HIV+ retreat in Boise. *"This is my family of choice and of need"* said another at an emotional closing session. A quiet man in a wheelchair said, *"I get strength from us being together, and that's very important to me."*

Our 30 annual retreatants are men and women from all walks of life; teachers and factory workers, artists and landscapers, Hispanic and Anglo. They have in common a disease that taxes them physically and emotionally; spiritually and financially - a disease they must confront every day.

Retreatants will participate in forums with physicians and counselors on the medical and psycho-spiritual aspects of living with HIV+/AIDS. A Ceremony of Light will honor those who have died from this disease. Artwork, massage therapy, and just plain fun are other dimensions of the experience.

It is essential that the retreat be funded for the participants, whose illness drains their financial resources. 100% of your contribution goes to their direct costs, as we who staff it are donating our time. Our contributors and sponsors include area businesses, churches, health care agencies and institutions, and concerned individuals.

Please help us to reach out to those members of our community who most need our compassion, love, and support, by gifting the AIDS RETREAT FUND. You can also help us by posting or passing along the enclosed flyer, which describes the retreat and how to register.

Your contribution is tax deductible. We welcome your prayers and any other assistance as well. Your response within the next 2 weeks will help us with

budgeting and planning for this event. *Let us know on the form below if we may publicly acknowledge your gift.* THANK YOU.

Yours truly,

Br. Selby Coffman, for the Desert Pause Retreat Committee  
[selby@idahomonks.org](mailto:selby@idahomonks.org) 208-324-2377 x 215

**HIV+/AIDS RETREAT 2006 COMMITTEE**

*Jeff Ruprecht, RN, Twin Falls  
Dr. Fran Golding, Twin Falls  
Duane Langworthy, Coordinator, Caldwell  
Mayz Leonard, Coordinator, Twin Falls  
Alan Sweeney, Caldwell*

*Charlie Lockwood, Jerome  
Joan McKenzie, Gooding  
Br. Selby Coffman, Monastery  
Hanna Young, MSW, Ryan  
White Clinic Boise*

---

**Please make checks payable to “Monastery HIV+/AIDS Retreat Fund”. Mail your gift with this form to 541 East 100 South, Jerome, ID 83338. Thank you!**

Your Name or Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my/our gift to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ retreatant(s) at the cost of \$100.00 per person

Enclosed is my/our gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**PLEASE INDICATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ “The HIV+/AIDS Retreat may publicly acknowledge this gift.”  
\_\_\_\_\_ “I/we wish to remain anonymous.”